AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated in Appendix A submitted herewith according to the revision to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 concerning a manner for making amendments to the claims.

REMARKS

Claims 6-7 and 12-19 are presently pending in the captioned application with claims 6 and 14-15 being amended and new claim 20 being added.

The Examiner allowed claims 12-19. That indication is acknowledged with appreciation by the Applicants. Remaining independent claim 6 and dependent claim 7 are rejected solely under § 112, ¶ 2 as being indefinite. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 6 and 7 to overcome the indefiniteness rejection and now submit that claims 6 and 7 are in condition for allowance.

In particular, independent claim 6 has been amended to delete a phrase and amended to recite the phrase "comprising" as suggested by the Examiner.

Although allowed, claims 14 and 15 have been amended to remove the phrase, "of an unsaturated carboxylic acid group" from line 2 of each claim, respectiv ly. Support for the amendments can be

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found in the specification at page 10, lines 10-16. Applicants note that claims 14 and 15 depend from already allowed independent claim 12. Therefore, it is noted that the patentability of claims 14 and 15 is maintained.

New claim 20 recites an embodiment in which a carboxylic acid group of the resin is ionized with zinc as disclosed on page 21, line 33, to page 22, line 6 (Example 9) and at Table 4 of the specification. Again, Applicants note that new claim 20 depends from already allowed independent claim 12. Therefore, claim 20 is patentable.

No new matter within the meaning of § 132 has been added by any of the amendments.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to enter the amendments, reconsider and withdraw the remaining rejection under § 112, ¶ 2, and allow all claims pending in this application.

1. Rejection of Claims 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2

The Office Action rejects claims 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and

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distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. The Office Action states:

> Claim 6 is vague and indefinite because it is unclear what the phrase "or an ethylene/unsaturated carboxylic acid/(meth)acrylic acid ester copolymer", in lines 13-15 relates to. It is unclear whether the phrase is merely a typographical error or whether Applicant is attempting to claim a third type of extrusion-lamination resin under subcategory (1) which is not limited in regard to its unsaturated carboxylic acid and (meth)acrylic acid ester contents.
>
> In claim 6, the phrase "extrusion-lamination resin:" is unclear and confusing. The Examiner suggests that the colon be replaced by clearer language such as "composed of" or "comprising" or "comprises".

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. However, Applicants have amended the claims in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion to advance prosecution of the application.

In particular, Applicants have deleted the phrase "or an ethylene/unsaturated carboxylic acid/(meth)acrylic acid ester copolymer" from claim 6.

Additionally, Applicants have followed the Examiner's suggestion by replacing the colon after the term "extrusion-lamination resin" with the term "comprising".

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims 6 and 7 now particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention and therefore respectfully request

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reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection and allow all pending claims. Favorable action with an early allowance of the claims pending is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	)	Group Art Unit: 1773
MIHARU; SUZUKI	)	Examiner: Chen, Vivian
Serial No. 09/806,305	)	
Filed: March 29, 2001	)	

For: **LAMINATED FILM AND METHOD OF PRODUCING THE SAME**

Appendix A

Please amend the following claims as indicated according to the revision to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 concerning a manner for making claim amendments.

Claims 1-5 (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) A method of producing a laminated film by extrusion-laminating comprising the step of:

extrusion-laminating on the surface of a polyester film of which the surface is oxidized and has a surface wet tension of not smaller than 45 dyns/cm,

(1) an extrusion-lamination resin~~+~~ comprising an ethylene/unsaturated carboxylic acid/(meth)acrylic acid ester copolymer or a mixture resin composition thereof with an ethylene/unsaturated carboxylic acid copolymer and/or an

ethylene/(meth)acrylic acid ester copolymer, the amount of the unsaturated carboxylic acid component being from 1 to 12% by weight and the amount of the (meth)acrylic acid ester component being from 2 to 25% by weight with respect to the total amount of said extrusion-laminated resin components, or ~~an ethylene/unsaturated carboxylic acid/(meth)acrylic acid ester copolymer, or~~ (2) an extrusion-lamination resin~~:~~ comprising a mixture resin ~~comprising~~ composed of:

(a) 100 parts by weight of the mixture resin component of an ethylene/unsaturated carboxylic acid/(meth)acrylic acid ester copolymer or the mixture resin composition of said ethylene/unsaturated carboxylic acid/(meth)acrylic acid ester copolymer with an ethylene/unsaturated carboxylic acid copolymer and/or an ethylene/(meth)acrylic acid ester copolymer, the amount of the unsaturated carboxylic acid component being from 1 to 12% by weight and the amount of the (meth)acrylic acid ester component being from 2 to 25% by weight with respect to the total amount of the extrusion-laminated resin components, and

(b) not more than 30 parts by weight of an ethylene/α-olefin copolymer resin having a density of 840 to 900 kg/m^3, at a resin temperature of from 280 to 340 °C.

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7. (Original) A method of producing a laminated film according to claim 6, wherein said extrusion-lamination resin is extrusion sandwich-laminated between said polyester film and another polar base member.

Claims 8-11 (Cancelled)

12. (Previously added) A method of producing a laminated film by extrusion-laminating, comprising the step of:

extrusion-laminating on the surface of a polyester film, an ethylene/unsaturated carboxylic acid/(meth)acrylic acid ester copolymer or a mixture resin composition thereof with an ethylene/unsaturated carboxylic acid copolymer and/or an ethylene/(meth)acrylic acid ester copolymer, the amount of the unsaturated carboxylic acid component being from 1 to 12% by weight and the amount of the (meth)acrylic acid ester component being from 2 to 25% by weight with respect to the total amount of said extrusion-laminated resin components, at a resin temperature of from 280 to 340° C.

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13. (Previously added) A method of producing a laminated film by extrusion-laminating onto at least one surface of a polyester film, a mixture resin comprising:

(a) 100 parts by weight of the mixture resin component of an ethylene/unsaturated carboxylic acid/(meth)acrylic acid ester copolymer, or the mixture resin composition of said ethylene/unsaturated carboxylic acid/(meth)acrylic acid ester copolymer with an ethylene/unsaturated carboxylic acid copolymer and/or an ethylene/(meth)acrylic acid ester copolymer, the amount of the unsaturated carboxylic acid component being from 1 to 12% by weight and the amount of the (meth)acrylic acid ester component being from 2 to 25% by weight with respect to the total amount of the extrusion-laminated resin components; and

(b) not more than 30 (excluding 0) parts by weight of an ethylene/α-olefin copolymer resin having a density of from 840 to 900 kg/m^3, at a resin temperature of from 280 to 340°C.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the carboxylic acid group ~~of the unsaturated carboxylic acid group~~ in said copolymer or said mixture resin composition is partly ionized with an alkali metal ion or an alkaline earth

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metal ion within a range in which the ionization degree is not larger than 20%.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the carboxylic acid group ~~of the unsaturated carboxylic acid group~~ in said mixture resin composition is partly ionized with an alkali metal ion or an alkaline earth metal ion within a range in which the ionization degree is not larger than 20%.

16. (Previously added) The method of claim 12, wherein another polar base member is laminated on the polyester film via the extrusion-laminated resin.

17. (Previously added) The method of claim 13, wherein another polar base member is laminated on the polyester film via the extrusion-laminated resin.

18. (Previously added) The method of claim 16, wherein the polar base member is selected from the group consisting of an aluminum foil, an aluminum-deposited polyester film, an aluminum-deposited polypropylene film, a silica-deposited

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polyester film, alumina-deposited polyester film, a polyamide film, an ethylene/vinyl alcohol copolymer film and a paper.

19. (Previously added) The method of claim 17, wherein the polar base member is selected from the group consisting of an aluminum foil, an aluminum-deposited polyester film, an aluminum-deposited polypropylene film, a silica-deposited polyester film, alumina-deposited polyester film, a polyamide film, an ethylene/vinyl alcohol copolymer film and a paper.

20. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the carboxylic acid group in said copolymer or said mixture resin composition is partly ionized with a zinc ion within a range in which the ionization degree is not larger than 20%.

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